Message Text

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15/43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 OMB-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 INR-11 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 /101 W ------ 051193

R 120945Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4159

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USCINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

SECRETSANAA 1669

CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, TC

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR

REF: DA 061911Z AUG 74

- 1. COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI CALLED ME IN AUGUST 8. I TOOK ADVANTAGE AT OPENING TO TELL HIM OF EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE AND OF APPROVAL FOR DIRECT SHIPMENT TO HODEIDA. HAMDI WAS GRATIFIED WITH NEWS.
- 2. HAMDI RESPONDED THAT REASON FOR MEETING WAS MATTER OF 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES. HE HAD NOT BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ORIGINAL NEGOTIATIONS HANDLED BY FORMER COS MASWARI AND HAD NOT REALIZED UNTIL RECENTLY THAT THIRTY RECOILLESS RIFLES WOULD BE GROUND MOUNTED, NOT VEHICLE MOUNTED. GROUND MOUNTED RIFLES WOULD HAVE VERY LIMITED UTILITY. HE THEREFORE WAS REQUESTING THIRTY JEEPS IN WHICH TO MOUNT RECOILLESS RIFLES. YAR WOULD HOPE VEHICLES COULD BE GIFT, BUT PREPARED TO PAY CASH IF NECESSARY.

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3. I RESPONDED THAT THIS PROBABLY WOULD BE NECESSARY, AS WITH

ABU DHABI FINANCED ARMS, AS USG HAD NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN. FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO OBTAIN PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA. I STRONGLY URGED THAT THIS BE KEPT SEPARATE MATTER FROM SALES CASES UAA AND UAB WHICH HAD NOW BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND COULD ONLY BE DELAYED BY CHANGES AT THIY LATE DATE. HAMDI AGREED.

4. HAMDI SAID THAT AS PART OF PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN BAB AL-MANDAB DEFENSES HE ALSO WISHES TO REQUEST MINES FROM USG AS FOLLOWS: 30,000 ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES, 15,000 TO 20,000 ANTI-TANK MINES AND QUANTITY OF UNDERWATER MINES FOR COASTAL DEFENSES. HE ALSO HOPED THIS COULD BE GIFT. I RESPONDED AS I HAD WITH JEEPS.

5. IN VIEW PRESENCE OF JORDANIAN ENGINEER OFFICERS IN BAB AL-MANDAB AREA, I SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR LT. GEN. MUSTAFA HIS VIEWS ON JEQUESTS. AFTER CONSULTING WITH JORDANIAN ADMISERS AT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, HE TOLD ME AUGUST 12 THAT AMOUNTS ARE REASONABLE. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN HAVING SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH LTC ABU SHAWARIB, NUMBER TWO MAN ON COMMAND COUNCIL, RE SALE OF NON-US ORIGIN ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES FROM JORDANIAN WAR RESERVE. HE SAID HAMDI HAD ALSO APPROACHED HIM ON OBTAINING JEEPS FOR 106'S.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. BELIEVE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE HAMDI WITH COST AND AVAILABILITY DATA ON JEEPS FOR 106'S AND ON MINES. I WOULD GUESS 3000 TO 5000 UNDERWATER MINES WOULD SUFFICE, ALTHOUGH I AM NO EXPERT. I DO NOT PROPOSE THAT WE SHOULD PROVIDE ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITEMS OF THIS NATURE. YARG SEEMS TO HAVE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE AT MOMENT, WHICH I PRESUME IT MAY HAVE OBTAINED FROM SAG. NEWTON

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